

**REMARKS**

This amendment is filed with an RCE.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10 and 14 are amended herewith.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

**I. CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,563,837 to *Krishna, et al.*, hereinafter “*Krishna*”. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In *ex parte* examination of patent applications, the Patent Office bears the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. MPEP §2142, p. 2100-125 (8th ed., rev. 5, August 2006). Absent such a *prima facie* case, the applicant is under no obligation to produce evidence of nonobviousness. *Id.* To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met: *Id.* First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. *Id.* Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. *Id.* Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim

limitations. *Id.* The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure.

*Id.*

The independent claims have each been amended to require a scheduling controller connected to the bufferless, non-blocking interconnecting network, as shown , *e.g.*, in Figure 3 of the specification as filed. This is not taught or suggested by Krishna.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and the withdrawal of the §103 rejection.

**CONCLUSION**

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicants assert that the remaining claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that this Application be passed to issue.

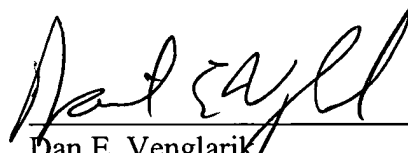
If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *dvenglarik@munckbutrus.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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